

## **Annotated Bibliography**

### **APSU Writing Center Handout**

Before you begin, review your professor's assignment instructions for requirements such as citation style and paper length.

#### **What is a Bibliography?**

A list of sources used in the preparation of a research project.

It appears at the end of academic writing as:

- Works Cited (MLA)
- References (APA)
- Bibliography (Chicago)

#### **What is Annotated Bibliography?**

It encourages critical thinking rather than just a list or summary.

It includes a:

- proper citation
- summary and evaluation of the source

The annotation:

- appears directly after the citation
- is usually one paragraph
- is typically between 100 to 300 words.

#### **What Should Annotation Include?**

A summary of the source

The source's relevance to your research

The author's credibility and background

The source's strengths and weaknesses

Key conclusions or findings

How it compares to other sources

Any opposing viewpoints

### **Questions to Help You Analyze a Source**

#### **Who?**

Who is the author?

Who is the intended audience?

Who benefits from or is impacted by this research?

#### **What**

What is the main argument or purpose of the source?

What evidence or research supports the author's claims?

What are the key findings or conclusions?

#### **When**

When was the source published?

When was the research conducted?

When would this source be most relevant?

## **Where**

Where was the source published?

Where does the information come from?

Where does this source fit within the larger academic conversation?

## **Why**

Why was this source created?

Why is this source relevant to your research?

## **How**

How does this source compare to your other sources?

How does this source challenge your argument?

## **MLA 9th Sample Format:**

Porter, Max. *Grief is the Thing with Feathers*. Graywolf Press, 2015.

In *Grief Is the Thing with Feathers*, Porter explores a father's grief following the unexpected and tragic death of his wife. The novel examines both the ordinary and overwhelming aspects of grief through poetic language. As the point of view shifts between the widower, his sons, and an Anthropomorphic Crow, readers witness moments of guilt, vulnerability, sorrow, growth, and love.

**[Additional paragraphs would continue with evaluation and reflection.]**

In the annotation above, the writer includes both a summary and an evaluation. It follows MLA formatting: the citation uses a 0.5-inch hanging indent, and the annotation uses a standard 0.5-inch paragraph indent

**APA 7th Sample Format:**

Evans, D. (Ed.). (2016). *Language and identity: Discourse in the world*. Bloomsbury Academic.  
<https://doi.org/10.5040/9781474242035>

In this edited collection, Evans explores the relationship between language and identity, focusing on how discourse shapes social and cultural understanding. The book presents multiple perspectives and includes counterarguments, strengthening its credibility. Chapters two and three are especially useful for analyzing how language influences people's personal identity. This source will help provide scholarly support and connect to other texts in the analysis...

**(annotation continues)**

In the above annotation, the writer summarizes the main argument and evaluates the source's credibility and strengths. It follows APA formatting: the citation uses a 0.5-inch hanging indent, and the annotation uses a standard 0.5-inch paragraph indent.

## References

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